

#### Office of Access and Functional Needs

## "The Whole Community: We Succeed or Fail Together"

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#### **Cal OES' Priority**

#### **Protect**







Leader in Emergency Management

Build Capabilities

Support Our Communities



#### **ACCESS FUNCTIONAL NEEDS**





#### Individuals who have:

- Developmental, intellectual or physical disabilities
- Chronic conditions or injuries
- Limited English proficiency

#### Individuals who are:

- Older adults, children or pregnant
- Living in institutionalized settings
- Low income, homeless and/or transportation disadvantaged



# How do we integrate AFN into emergency planning?



Together!



## **Every Disaster is Different**









## In All But One Way...









# Cal OES – Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN)

Established in 2008 to identify the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs before, during, and after a disaster.

OAFN integrates disability needs and resources into emergency management systems and offers guidance to emergency managers, planners, service providers.



#### **California Regions**



#### **Inland Region**

- 31 Counties
- 3 Mutual Aid Regions (III, IV, V)
- 123 Incorporated Cities
- Total Population: 7.2 million

#### **Coastal Region**

- 16 Counties
- 1 Mutual Aid Regions (II)
- 151 Incorporated Cities
- Total Population: 8.1 million

#### Southern Region

- 11 Counties
- 2 Mutual Aid Regions (I, VI)
- 226 Incorporated Cities
- Total Population: 21.6 million

## **Butte/Valley Fires**











## Disaster Response





#### When Disasters Strike!



LAX Shooting (November 2013)

Waterman Incident (Dec 2015)





Aliso Canyon Gas Leak (October 2015)



## **AFN Integration**



- We *incorporate* AFN into planning...
- You and your team <u>integrate</u> it into practice!

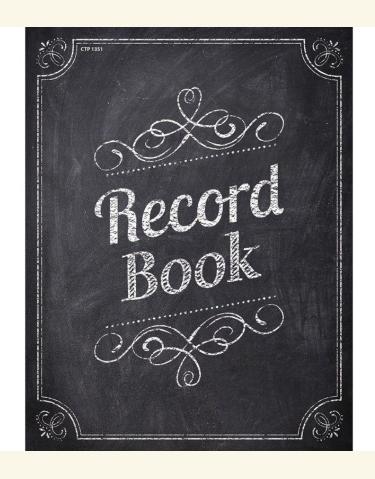


#### Where do we start?





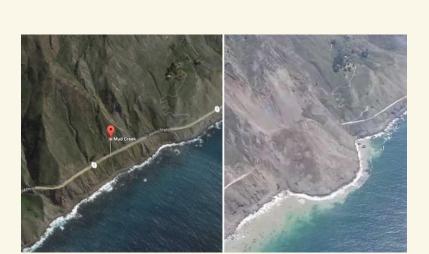
#### One for the Record Books!

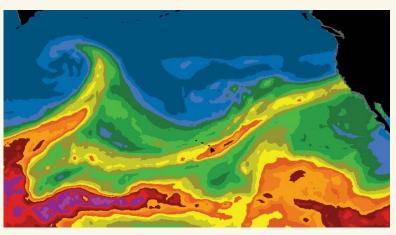




## Lions, Tigers & Bears!

Rain...
Floods...
Mudslides...





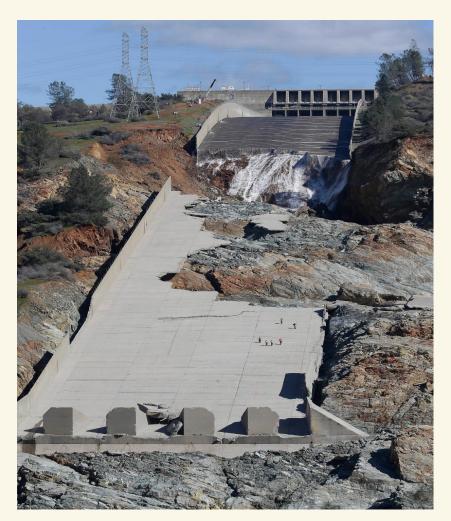




#### Damageddon

#### The Oroville Dam:

- Nation's tallest dam
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest US manmade lake
- Evacuated over 180,000 people
- Supported 42 shelters





#### Northern California Wildfires

#### October 8th:

- 11,000 firefighters & 500 law officers responded
- Supported +40 shelters
- 245,000 acres burned
- 9,000 structures lost
- \$9 billion in damages
- 43 people perished





#### **Thomas Fire**

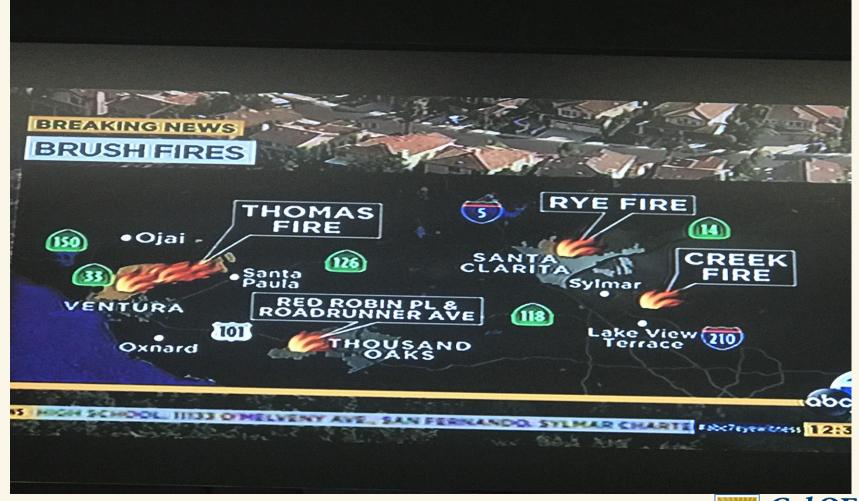
#### December 4th:

- Largest wildfire in state history
- Evacuated 105,000 people
- Mutual aid from across the country
- 8,500 firefighters responded the largest mobilization ever
- 283,000 acres burned
- 1,200 structures lost





#### Southern CA Wildfires





#### **Lessons Learned**

Emergency managers can save lives, reduce suffering, increase independence and promote the health of individuals with access and functional needs within their communities by doing the following three things:

- 1. Establish a relationship with their local Independent Living Center (ILC)
- 2. Reassess the accessibility of their sheltering facilities
- 3. Integrate American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters within their press conferences



## A Relationship w/the ILCs

- Non-profits operated by individuals with disabilities & promote independent living
- There are 28 ILCs in California
- Capacity to push out critical disaster-related information
- Can assist determining consumer evacuation and sheltering needs
- May provide durable medical equipment and assistive technology to consumers





## Reassessing Shelters

- The National Shelter System (NSS) is out of date
- Too often, officials select shelters based on poor or incomplete information
- Accessible shelters promote the health, safety, and independence of survivors





## **ASL Interpreters at Press Events**

- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters need to be at <u>all</u> press conferences
- Without ASL interpreters; the deaf community cannot receive, process or act on lifesaving information
- Cal OES has a Disaster Response Interpreter credentialing program





## Disaster Response Interpreter Training Program

- Train and credential certified interpreters to provide sign language interpreting services in shelter and media settings during an emergency
- Cal OES-credentialed interpreter
   Employed by the state of California or
   Contracted or employed by a Partner
   Agency
  - √ Fingerprinted
  - √ Renew every 2 years
- Payment for Services is between Partner Agency and Disaster Response Interpreter



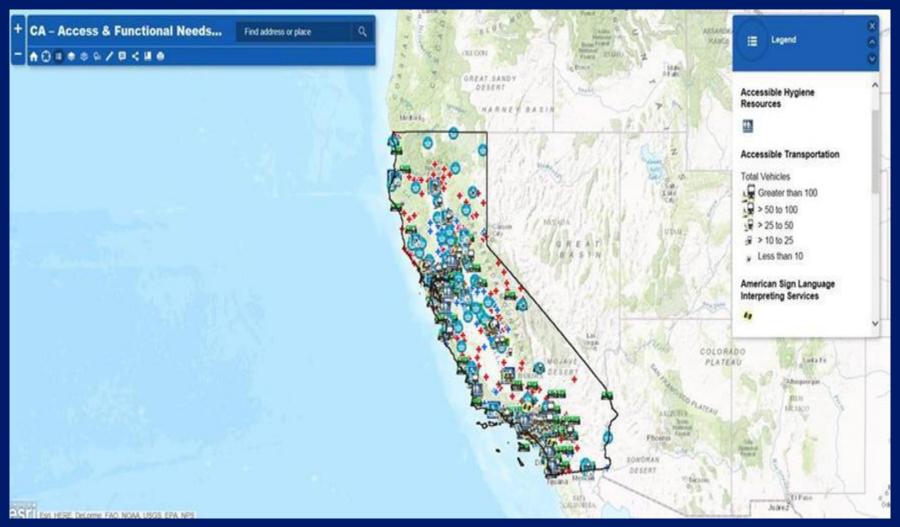


#### **Continuous Learning**

- Preorder AFN showers and toilets
   redirect if needed
- Train field staff on ADA and reasonable accommodations
- Hold care facilities to task in an evacuation, make them partners....
- AFN rep in your State Operations Center and EOCs
- Plan and use sign language interpreters
- Whole community planning- AFN not part of an annex

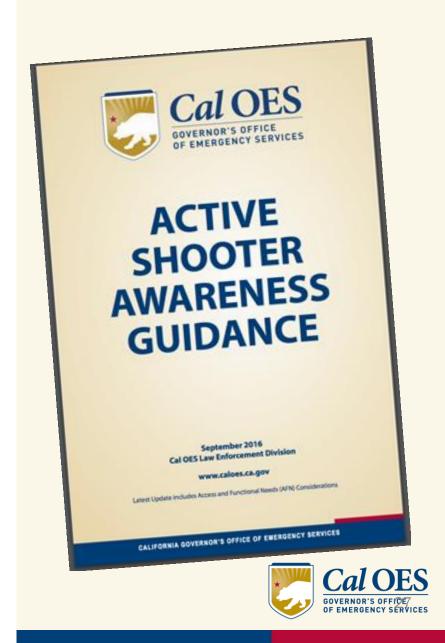


#### **AFN WEB MAP**



#### **Active Shooter Awareness Guidance**

- Result of Inland Regional Center Active Shooter Attack
- First guidance of its kind to integrate AFN considerations
- Publicly available on the Cal OES website



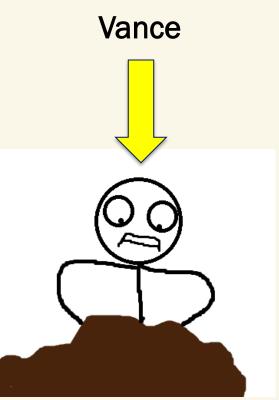
## Summary





#### In Conclusion...







## "One Team One Fight"





#### Making a Difference

Look it's and and from the Ventura disaster relief center saying "thank you Mona Lisa, for the hard work and dedication to your job; which inturned saved us from what could have been all sorrow and grief.

We love you. We are happy today









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